

Higher Level Objectives of NEP Guidance:

- The goal of the NEP is unique in that it seeks to bring together multiple elements of the CWA in developing plans to comprehensively “...*restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s significant estuaries and assure that the designated uses are protected*”.
- Under Section 320, EPA has provided guidance to reinforce the importance of local stewardship through a national, non-regulatory program.
- The reinforcing objective is to benefit the overall success of both national and local programs objectives.

Key NEP Guidance Documents:

- ***Annual Funding Guidance*** - intended to provide clear direction regarding work plan and reporting requirements including major assistance agreement policies for cooperative agreements made under section 320.
- ***NEP Guidance for Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans*** - describes the requirements for approvable CCMP's and provides an important reference for evaluating update/revision check-list responses.
- ***Program Evaluation Guidance*** - helps assess if the NEP's are making adequate progress in achieving both programmatic and environmental results.



FY 2017 – FY 2019 CLEAN WATER ACT §320 NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDANCE

- I. Introduction
- II. EPA’s Strategic Plan and Relevant Office of Water (OW) Elements
- III. Management Conference-Approved FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019
 - ☐ Elements of a Work Plan
 - ☐ Required Documentation of CWA §320 Funds Used for Travel
- IV. Expedited Obligation and Expenditure of §320 Funds
 - ☐ Expediting Funds Obligation
 - ☐ Expediting Funds Expenditure
- V. Federal Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Reporting Requirements
 - ☐ Environmental Results
 - ☐ Leveraged Resources
- VI. Additional National Estuary Program Policies
 - ☐ CCMP Revisions and Updates
 - ☐ Required National Meeting Attendance
 - ☐ NEP Program Evaluation
 - ☐ Use of §320 Funds for Land Purchase
 - ☐ Fund-raising vs. Grant Writing
 - ☐ Prohibition on Use of Clean Water Act §320 Funds by Association of National Estuary Programs

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Revision and Update Guidelines



National Estuary Program Guidance

Comprehensive Conservation &
Management Plans:
Content and Approval Requirements

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National Estuary Program Program Evaluation Guidance Final - August 3, 2016



Section I: Purpose, Background, Goals, and Framework

- A. Purpose
- B. Background
- C. Goals
- D. Framework

Section II: Scope and Format of Documentation

- A. Program Evaluation Package
- B. On-site Visit
- C. PE Findings

Section III: Program Evaluation Process

- A. Program Evaluation Team Structure
- B. Program Evaluation Team Responsibilities

Section IV: NEP Groups and Program Evaluation Schedule

- A. NEP Groups
- B. Program Schedule

Attachments:

Attachment 1: NEP Program Evaluation Logic Model

Attachment 2: Standardized Performance Measures for
Program Management Core Elements

Attachment 3: Annual Funding Guidance Requirement for
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Attachment 4: Program Evaluation Schedules

Attachment 5: Responsibilities for the Parties Involved
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